

## **Next Generation Space Telescope Science Working Group Charter**

The NGST Science Working Group (SWG) will work in collaboration with the NGST Project, NASA Headquarters, and the astronomical community to provide coherent scientific leadership during the formulation, design, construction, launch, and early scientific operation of the NGST. During these phases, the SWG will be a liaison to the astronomy community and will assist NASA in the dissemination of information about NGST. SWG members are expected to be knowledgeable in observational and theoretical astrophysics relevant to defining and focusing the scientific objectives for the NGST.

### **SWG MEMBERSHIP**

The membership will be composed of the following:

1. Principal or Lead Investigators for all the science instruments, one per agency per instrument for which it is contributing a major share.
2. Interdisciplinary Scientists, solicited worldwide by a NASA announcement of opportunity. These scientists may be experts on particular technical matters (e.g. Telescope Scientist) or on particular research topics.
3. Ex Officio representatives from the three space agencies, including all members of the NPSG (NGST Project Science Group). These are: NASA Project Scientist, NASA Instrument Scientist, NASA Telescope Scientist, STScI Project Scientist, ESA Project Scientist, and CSA Project Scientist.

The NGST Project Scientist will chair the SWG.

The SWG is chartered by and will report to the NASA Program Scientist at Headquarters, and will advise the NGST Project Manager. NASA may elect to expand the SWG membership as the project evolves.

### **Responsibilities**

Specific tasks of the SWG may include working with NASA and the NGST Project to:

1. Refine, as necessary, the NGST science goals as embodied in the Design Reference Mission (DRM), in order to study the effects of altering observatory parameters (orbit, mission duration, instrument complement, etc.) on the NGST science goals,
2. Refine science requirements and performance metrics and objectives for the NGST telescope, instrumentation, software, operations, and other aspects of the program,
3. Participate in negotiations involving the observatory/science interfaces,

4. Participate in refining the mission design,
5. Participate in NGST Project reviews in order to coordinate scientific requirements and assist the NGST project in mission decisions as they relate to the scientific objectives. This assistance includes providing scientific assessments of design concepts and implementation plans relative to the overall scientific performance of the mission,
6. Participate in the refinement of project science plans and the philosophy for defining and conducting the science program,
7. Recommend solutions to technical and resource problems during the development and implementation phases of the mission, and
8. Explain the goals of NGST to the larger astronomy community, and prepare materials for review by external scientific advisory groups and oversight committees.

## **RESOURCES**

STScI will provide logistic support for the SWG, including arranging meetings, compiling agendas, and issuing minutes. NASA will fund travel for US members to NGST meetings through flight instrument contracts and Interdisciplinary Scientist grants, subject to NASA policies and availability of funds from NASA. ESA and CSA will support SWG members from their respective countries.